

## Message Text

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61

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-10 RSC-01 DRC-01

/043 W

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R 090204Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9975

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: YS, ASEC, CGEN, OGEN

SUBJ: MISSING DIPLOMATIC POUCH BELONGING TO MISSION OF  
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

REF: USUN 3393

1. TWA CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY HAS ADVISED USUN  
THAT DESPITE TWA/S BEST EFFORTS LOCATE MISSING YEMEN  
POUCH IT HAS NOT BEEN LOCATED.

2. INVESTIGATION IN LONDON DISCLOSED THAT ON AUG 14,  
1973 FOLLOWING SHIPMENETS WERE TRANSFERRED TO TWA CARGO  
WAREHOUSE AT HEATHROW AIRPORT-LONDON BY MIDDLE EAST  
AIRLINES:

PERSONAL EFFECTS - 10530796 - 1/24 - NYC 609/15

DIPLOMATIC POUCH - 00019624 - 1/22 - NYC - 609/15

AIRCRAFT PARTS - 11126662 - 1/4 TUL 771/15

DIPLOMATIC POUCH NO. 00019624 WAS SCHEDULED FOR LOADING  
IN REAR CARGO SECTION ON FLIGHT 609 ON AUGUST 15, 1973,  
AND WAS SO IDENTIFIED ON CARGO VERIFICATION SHEET,  
PREPARATION FOR LOADING AT CARGO WAREHOUSE, TRANSFER  
TO RAMP AREA AND LOADING ONTO AIRCRAFT WAS UNDER SUPER-  
VISION OF LEAD RAMP SERVICE AGENT JAMESE FRANKLIN, WHO  
HAS REPORTED HIS CERTAINTY THAT POUCH WAS, IN FACT,  
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ON AIRCRAFT AT DEPARTURE. FLIGHT 609, AN ALL CARGO

AIRCRAFT DEPARTED ON AUGUST 15, 1973 AT 8:19 LOCAL TIME. AFTER DEPARTURE ALL ITEMS ON EXPORT RACK WERE RECHECKED AND IDENTIFIED AND DIPLOMATIC POUCH IN QUESTION WAS NOT REPORTED ON THIS RECORD INDICATING THAT POUCH HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN LOADED ON FLIGHT 609. A THOROUGH SEARCH OF CARGO WAREHOUSE, CUSTOMS AREA, OTHER AIRLINES AND OVERSEAS STATIONS FAILED TO LOCATE MISSING POUCH.

3. AN INVESTIGATION INITIATED IN NEW YORK BY TWA DISCLOSED THAT FLIGHT 609 ARRIVED AT JFK AIRPORT AT 11:30 A.M. (LOCAL TIME). SINCE FLIGHT WAS ALL CARGO AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT WAS PARKED ON RAMP DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO TWA'S CARGO FACILITY. CARGO CHIEF HOWARD KNAPP, SUPERVISED OFF-LOADING OF CARGO. WHEN IT WAS LEAREND POUCH WAS NOT ON BOARD, ORIGINATING STATION WAS NOTIFIED TO THAT EFFECT. LONDON RESPONDED BY CONFIRMING THAT POUCH HAD BEEN PLACED ON BOARD ACCORDING TO THEIR RECORDS AND AVAILABLE INFORMATION. A COMPLETE SEARCH PROVED NEGATIVE AND SEARCHES OF CARGO FACILITIES, AIRPORT, POST OFFICE AND US CUSTOMS AREA ALSO PROVED NEGATIVE.

4. AT OUR REQUEST, TWA IS SENDING NOTE TO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMENT MISSION EXPRESSING REGRET OVER LOSS OF DIPLOMATIC POUCH AND STATING THAT SEARCH WILL CONTINUE SINCE IT IS ASSUMED THAT POUCH IS SOMEWHERE WITHIN SYSTEM. WE ARE SENDING SUBSTANTIVE REPORT TO YEMEN MISSION ON INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED AND EXPRESSING REGRET OVER LOSS OF POUCH.  
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